

VAN VLEET-MANSFIELD DRUG COMPANY

Perfins have been used by a number of wholesale drug firms around the country. Two such users have an interesting background, at least to the writer, because they were located in the same city (Memphis, Tenn.) and eventually merged into a single firm (which brings up an interesting question as to how many other Perfin users may have merged with another Perfin-using firm).

One of the Memphis users was the Hessig-Ellis Drug Co., whose H-E/DCO Perfin (H-64) is shown at left below. The other user was the Van Vleet-Mansfield Drug Co., whose VV/MD Perfin (V-30) is shown at right below. The latter user was not identified in the U. S. Catalog until three or four years ago when the writer reported a V-30 Perfin cover bearing the firm's corner card.



The predecessor of the Van Vleet (pronounced Van Fleet) firm was formed in 1833 as Mansfield and Higbee, later becoming Mansfield Drug Co. In 1875 the firm was bought by P. P. Van Vleet and the name was changed to Van Vleet-Mansfield Drug Co.

In 1928 this firm merged with the Hessig-Ellis firm under the name of Van Vleet-Ellis Corp. In 1929 the new firm was merged with McKesson and Robbins, Inc., and became known as McKesson, Van Vleet-Ellis. This subsequently was changed to the present name of McKesson and Robbins Drug Co.

The Van Vleet-Mansfield Drug Co. Perfin is C-rated and may be found on precancelled as well as un-precancelled stamps. On un-precancelled off-cover Perfins, the writer has it on Scott Nos. 370 and 406. On precancelled issues, he has it on Scott Nos. 376, 377, 378,

(continued on page 7)

VAN VLEET-MANSFIELD (CONTINUED)

427, 498 , 504, and 515 (two different precancel types).

The Hessig-Ellis Drug Co. Perfin is B-rated and the writer does not have a copy of this H-64 pattern on or off cover.

The Perfins Bulletin, February 1979